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THE

ORDINARY of NEWGATE's

ACCOUNT of the

Behaviour, Confeſſion, and Dying Words

OF

Capt. *JOSEPH HALSEY,*

Who was executed at *Execution-Dock,*

On *Wedneſday* the Fourteenth of MARCH, 1759.

For the Murder of *DANIEL DAVIDSON.*

LONDON:

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INTRODUCTION.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. *Prov.* xviii. 21.

THE more valued and encouraged our brave ſeamen are for their many uſeful and commendable qualities, the more it is to be wiſhed, that they would be prevailed on to ſet a due value *on themſelves, chiefly on their* immortal ſpirits; *and not* make ſhipwreck of faith and a good conſcience *to their eternal loſs!*

What elſe but the deepeſt ſubtlety of the moſt malicious enemy of God and man could tempt men to profane ſwearing, curſing, and blaſphemy, in which there is not the leaſt appearance of pleaſure or profit? in which there is nothing but a daring defiance of Almighty power.

What but the impulſes of blind folly and incurable madneſs can drive men to imprecate damnation on their eyes and limbs, their ſouls and bodies? What elſe can perſuade them to make that the language of men, which is ſcarce credible to be the language of fiends? And while that is the language of any man, or ſet of men, what hope can there be that they will reverence the ſacred bond of an oath, where the property, good name, or even the life of another is concerned? How many recent ſtriking inſtances have we of this crime? And doth not this moſt alarming danger demand ſome ſpeedy and effectual remedy againſt an evil pregnant with every miſchief to civil ſociety? Wherein by this dreadful engine of falſe ſwearing, the beſt may become a prey to the worſt; and the brave and good fall a ſacrifice to the vileſt of men.

In the midſt of theſe dangers it is ſome relief, that many wiſe and good men are ſo providentially interſperſed with the bad, as to be a ſtrong check

and

and reſtraint upon them: yet does not this diſtribution univerſally arreſt or turn aſide thoſe arrows *of falſe witneſs that* fly in the dark, *or* deſtroy at noon-day. *Nor can the ſagacity of the moſt learned and upright Courts of juſtice always diſcern and defeat it, nor bring it to condign puniſhment when detected: this is the Royal, the Divine prerogative of the* Searcher of hearts, *and* Judge of all men.

And tho' it is an old complaint founded on experience, that there is one event to the righteous and the wicked, to him that ſweareth, and to him that feareth an oath †, and in the preſent ſtate no man knoweth love or hatred by all that is before him; *yet ſtill we know* their works are in the hand of God, *and that* for all theſe things he will bring them into judgment, neither ſhall wickedneſs deliver thoſe that are given to it.

† Eccleſ. ix. v. 2, 1. &c.

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AT a court of Admiralty, held by virtue of the King's commiſſion for the trial of crimes committed on the High Seas, within the juriſdiction of the Admiralty of England, before the Right Worſhipful Dr. Hay, Judge, (pro hac vice) and one of the Lords of the Admiralty, the Honourable Mr. Juſtice Wilmot, one of the Judges of the King's-Bench, and the Honourable Mr. Juſtice Noel, one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas, at Juſtice-Hall in the Old-Bailey, on Friday the 9th, and Saturday the 10th of March, 1759.

Joſeph Halſey, late of London, mariner, was indicted for the murder of John Edwards, a mariner, on board the ſhip Amazon, by ſtriking him with a certain handſpike value 1 s. and other unlawful weapons, on the 21ſt of Auguſt laſt, two hundred leagues to the weſt of Cape Finiſterre, whereof he languiſhed to the 1ſt of September and then died.

The ſaid Joſeph Halſey was indicted a ſecond time for the murder

of Daniel Davidſon, another mariner, on board the ſaid ſhip Amazon, by ſtriking him with a certain weapon called a pitch mop, and by kicking him with the right foot on the ſtomach, hips, and back-ſide, the ſhip being then about 120 leagues to the weſt of Cape Finiſterre, of which ſtrokes he languiſhed ſome days, till about the 4th of September, and then died.

To theſe two indictments the priſoner pleaded *not guilty*, and put himſelf for trial on God and his country.

The trial laſted ſeveral hours, in which it muſt be owned the three witneſſes againſt him laid very hard and cruel things to his charge, which if true and admitted, could not fail to condemn him.

But the evidence of the two firſt, viz. Thomas Sims and William Mitchel, was neither entirely conſiſtent or unſuſpected in itſelf, nor uncontradicted by others, as may appear by inſpection into the printed trial.

And as to the evidence of Simon Bazaro, an Italian ſeaman, put aboard the Amazon, from the Sphinx man of war, after the death of Edwards, tho' nothing material appeared in court to impeach it, yet it is ſaid to be much aggravated above what he ſwore before Sir William Richardſon, the juſtice who committed the priſoner.

On laying the whole evidence together, the jury, it is ſaid, were inclined to bring him in guilty of *manſlaughter* only, but being informed by the court that they muſt find him *guilty* or *not guilty*, he was brought in *guilty*, which verdict ſome finding reaſon to be diſſatisfied with, whether from reflection on what they heard in court, or what they heard afterwards, (which indeed ſtrictly was no evidence) they met all together, with a view to apply for mercy in the priſoner's behalf, on the day before his execution; but not agreeing in their opinions, nothing was done.

Saturday March 10th, Joſeph Halſey having ſentence pronounced on him to die on the 12th, according to a late act of parliament, there was no time to be loſt in preparing him. He was therefore viſited this evening, and earneſtly applied to, in order to give him a ſenſe of his ſituation; preſenting to his thoughts the tremendous, and all-ſearching judgment of God, and exhorting him inſtantly to prepare himſelf by *true repentance*, and a *lively faith*, and eſpecially by acknowledging his crimes, and the juſtice of his ſentence. But he perſiſted to aſſert, that he was as innocent as a child of the

mur-

murders laid to his charge, and that the witneſſes had ſworn falſely againſt him; earneſtly wiſhed his Majeſty King George knew his innocence, and aſked, is there no way of making it known to him, and getting off this ſentence? He was convinced by many reaſons of the great difficulty, if not impoſſibility of this; that his trial was over, and *his lot caſt*, and now fixt as doomſday; and that he ſhould turn his whole thoughts and attention to that only. He was aſk'd, if innocent, why he ſeemed ſo eaſy, and unconcerned, and reſolute on his trial; and why he did not make a better defence? He anſwered, that knowing his own innocence, *he truſted in God* that they ſhould not be able to hurt him. This he ſpoke with ſuch an air of integrity, and apparent honeſty, as it muſt be owned, gave me a different turn in his favour, from the light he appeared in during his trial. He added, that he would have ſpoke to the court ſeveral times, when he heard falſe witneſs born againſt him; but when he attempted to interrupt the courſe of proceeding, ſome near him cried out, huſh! you muſt not ſpeak now; and that when it came to his turn to make his defence, he could not for his awe and confuſion, (having never been in a court of juſtice before) recollect what he had to ſay, eſpecially thoſe particulars, in which he could gainſay the evidence that moſt affected him. Beſides, having counſel employed for him, he had left it to them: but as they could not foreſee all that might be ſaid by the witneſſes againſt him on the one hand, nor be as conſcious of his innocence as he was, or might be himſelf, on the other, they could not point all their queſtions ſo properly as himſelf, had he the ſkill and addreſs to propoſe them in his own defence.

However, he now declared in the moſt poſitive terms, as if he were to die that inſtant, that he never ſtruck any man with a handſpike in his whole life; and he took pains ſeveral times to explain the difficulty and improbability of ſtriking with a handſpike, being all laſhed down under the long-boat, during a voyage; beſides, that it is too heavy and unwieldy to ſtrike with. That the boys who witneſſed this againſt him, had been tutored and told by a certain perſon, that if they did not mention this, or ſome unlawful weapon uſed by him againſt the deceaſed, in correcting them, he could never be committed to priſon: which they had all agreed he ſhould be, for their own reaſons. That the ſhort defence he made in court was ſtrictly true, viz. " That he " never ſtruck one of them, but

" about

" about four blows to one, and twelve " blows to another, for not pump- " ing when they were able." And that the ſhip muſt ſink if he had not obliged them by proper correction to pump; that the maſter, Captain Gallop, being ſick, and the care and command of the ſhip left to him, he could not bear the reproach of letting her founder, and the crew periſh with her, for want of carrying a proper command; ſuppoſing he himſelf might have eſcaped in the long-boat, and got to another ſhip in the fleet; what would the other captains have ſaid to him in that caſe? That as to the ſhort allowance he was charged with confining the deceaſed to, he had given them all that was ordered them by the captain; who came out of Jamaica with about five weeks proviſions, which Halſey told him, and blamed him for it; the whole fleet alſo being ſhort; and had a long paſſage of twelve weeks. And this ſhortneſs of proviſion was one reaſon he gave for his unwillingneſs to get more hands from on board the king's ſhip, nor could he deſire it, or make a ſignal without Capt. Gallop's order, however preſſing the hands might be, on account of their unwillingneſs or inability to work.

It muſt be owned then, that the negative arguments againſt the veracity of the witneſſes, may ſeem now to carry ſome weight with them. For if one murder, much more, if two, were actually committed in a ſhip, in company with a large fleet of merchantmen, under convoy of two of his majeſty's ſhips, with ſome of whom they had intercourſe more than once, and might have daily, why did they not accuſe, arreſt, and confine the murderer, and bring him home in irons, placing another commander in his ſtead? for if they then knew, and believed he had murdered two of their crew, Capt. Gallop, or they, ſhould, nay they muſt have done thus much for their own ſafety, tho' they diſregarded juſtice, and the cry of blood. But if they had not then ſufficient reaſon to know, and believe him guilty of theſe murders, when the death of them was recent, 'tis impoſſible any new reaſon for this charge could have riſen afterwards, nor is it pretended.

Or if they could not ſpare this cruel and bloody commander till he brought the ſhip to port, why did they not impeach him at Plymouth, during two or three weeks ſtay there? or, at worſt, why not in the river as ſoon as he arrived? why ſilent about this for ſome weeks? till having corrected

rected the two boys the witneſſes, and had a quarrel with the lumper, this proſecution was manifeſtly ſet on foot by them, as may appear in the trial, and the ſequel. Or on his part, if he were conſcious of his guilt, and that there were three or more witneſſes on board with him who could prove it, why did he not flee and eſcape, as he eaſily could, from Plymouth or London? why, on the other hand, did he behave himſelf ſo unreſerved and fearleſs in his duty a-board, as to correct theſe boys, and diſpute with others here in the river?

Notwithſtanding theſe appearances, or perhaps ſurmiſes in his favour, he was all along applied to by me, as a perſon who muſt be taken for guilty, to guard againſt the worſt.

Therefore when call'd up to chapel on Sunday morning, he was again applied to, in order to move him to a ſenſe and confeſſion of his guilt, from Gen. ch. ix. v. 2—6. ſhewing the tender care and bounteous proviſion of the Creator for the life of man above all other creatures, and his ſure vengeance on the ſhedder of his blood. *The fear of you, and the dread of you ſhall be upon every beaſt of the earth,—fowl of the air,—fiſhes of the ſea, into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth ſhall be meat for you.—And ſurely your blood of your lives will I require.—Whoſo ſheddeth man's blood, by man ſhall his blood be ſhed: for in the image of God made he man.*

Theſe and other proper portions of holy writ were enlarged on, and applied to him, with true zeal and hearty concern for his ſalvation, which he ſeemed deeply ſenſible of; but inſtead of producing a confeſſion, he anſwered me again and again, you would not have me confeſs what I am not guilty of, and put into my hand a written paper in the following words:

" I never ſtruck a man with a " handſpike. I never ſtruck a man " with the main ſheet. I never " ſtruck a man with a mop. I ne- " ver ſtruck a man with a bowlin. " I never ſaid, a man *ſham'd Abra-* " *ham.* I never ſaid, when he " (i. e. Daniel Davidſon) was over- " board, *I'll torment him*, but jumpt " over-board after him as faſt as " poſſible, and got him on board. " And I never hindered him from " going down below. But as God " is my judge, I never uſed any " thing to lick them with, but the " main-top-gallant clew-line, (N.B. this is ſaid by ſeamen to be a ſmall cord, rather ſoft than hard) and " one day, with a half made point,

" one blow or ſo. And I never " hindered him from as much pro- " viſion as Capt. Gallop ordered ; " and I never tied him up to lick " him in my life, and all this is ſwore " falſe againſt me as God is true." Having read this, he was aſk'd, whether he had delivered this paper to the court before ſentence? he ſaid, he had not. However, being again preſs'd and applied to with all imaginable motives to a true confeſſion of his guilt, if guilty ; he anſwered, that being now paſt all hope of pardon or reſpite, he was under no temptation to deny the truth, being convinced it could not hurt him, but he perſiſted to aſſert his innocence in the moſt ſolemn manner, upon all the hopes of his ſalvation, and as a dying man.

He, with the other priſoners, was viſited again for two hours on Sunday afternoon ; and ſo twice daily till the morning of his execution. But as he expected to die on Monday the 12th inſtant, according to his ſentence, he wrote a letter to his mother on the 11th, which he delivered to a friendly captain, to be forwarded to her, but who, for the ſatisfaction of the publick, has permitted it to be printed ; and I can atteſt it to be in the ſame hand-writing with the aforecited paper, which he delivered me with his own hand.

March, 11, 1759.

Deareſt dear and dutiful mother,

" I am very ſorry to let you " know, that I am forced to depart " this life ; I was tried yeſterday by " the court of admiralty for my life, " and am to die to-morrow, and " all by Simmes's ſon and another " boy, and an Italian, by falſe " ſwearing againſt me, and has " ſwore againſt me as falſe as God " is true, and he has took pleaſure " in taking away my life ; don't " make yourſelf uneaſy, for God's " ſake, mother, I am only going out " of the world a little ſooner for it, " and I am in hopes to reſt with " my Maker, for ever and ever, " time without end. But this world " is only a ſmall ſpace of time for " man to dwell in, and as I die in- " nocent, I hope God will find me " reſt. And mother I am in hopes " to meet you in heaven, and my " father, brother, and ſiſters, and " all. If Capt. Gallop had lived, " this never would have been, for it " was as much a I could do to keep " the veſſel above water, and ex- " pected every moment when to go " down to the bottom, and I had " only one man in my watch, and " we uſed to take it turn and turn " about ; and at this time, theſe " people were as able to pump as " we, and as they would not, I " ſtruck

" ſtruck them with the main-top-
" gallant clew, and that is all as
" ever I did to them. And five or
" ſix weeks after that they ſicken-
" ed and died, but died with their
" own diſtempers.—We were arrived
" ſeven weeks before ever ſuch a
" thing was mentioned, and all con-
" trived by a lumper and Simmes's
" ſon —I have been in the New-
" Jail ever ſince the firſt of No-
" vember, and now in Newgate in
" the cells, where all condemned
" people are.—There is no body
" knows, but God alone, what I
" have ſuffered, and now a-going
" to a place of reſt I hope. I would
" have my ſiſters and brother, and
" all of you conſider of the future
" ſtate, and live in the fear of God,
" for you don't know how ſoon
" God will call you to an account
" of all your former tranſgreſſions,
" and if any of you live long
" enough in this world, you will
" ſee the curſes of God Almighty
" follow Simmes's ſon, for falſe-
" ſwearing away my life: I am
" very ſorry mother, to think I
" ſhould be call'd ſo ſoon out of
" this world by an untimely end,
" for I had always hopes of helping
" you, and ſhould have done very
" well, had it not have been for
" theſe rogues.—It has coſt me all
" my wages, venture, and life.—
" Don't make yourſelf uneaſy, for
" it cannot be help'd; I'll ſend you
" home my ſhirts, buckles, and
" hat. Remember me to, &c.
" So no more from your poor
" and unfortunate ſon in this life.
" Joſeph Halſey."

He was born of creditable parents, at Boſton in New-England, who gave him a decent and religious education, to which were added ſuch inſtructions as qualified him for the ſea, which he has followed about ten years, being now about his 23d year. He had been but one voyage to London before this, about ſeven years ago. His father was a mathematical inſtrument maker at Boſton; and his grandfather, if I remember, or great grandfather, had been *Knight for Hertfordſhire* 30 *years*; this was his own expreſſion.

Being aſked about the inſinuation thrown out againſt him by the witneſs William Mitchel, as if ignorant of navigation and the command of the ſhip; he aſſerted it to be groundleſs and malicious; to which may be added the teſtimony of an experienced captain in his favour, who has uſed the Boſton trade many years, and ſaid, he was known to be as ſkilful a ſeaman as any young man of his age.

On Monday and Tueſday the 12th and 13th inſtant, execution was reſpited, 'tis ſaid, on account

count of the tide not ſerving at the proper hour. This awakened his own endeavours, and thoſe of ſeveral others, moſt of them without his knowledge, to ſave his life; but without ſucceſs. He received the Holy Communion in the afternoon of the 13th, and having renewed his moſt ſerious declarations of his innocence, he ſeem'd reſign'd to his hard lot.

During the interval, ſhort as it was, between ſentence and execution, attempts were made to ſeduce him to what is *call'd* the *Catholick Religion*, and books put into his hands for that purpoſe, even in our chapel; but when he open'd, and read the title and the contents, he forthwith return'd them without farther notice; he had alſo cloſe application made to pervert him while ſitting in the Preſs-yard by a young perſon about his own age, who ſeem'd to give him much good and ſerious advice, telling him he had tried all religions, and found reſt and ſatisfaction only in the *Roman-Catholick-Church*: that by turning to that faith, he had diſobliged all his friends and his father, who lived at Briſtol, and kept an equipage; greatly extoll'd the piety, devotion, and ſtrict faſting of the Catholicks. With ſuch inſinuations, true or falſe, he endeavoured to win over his attention and affections to his cauſe; in which the zeal of this emiſſary is remarkable: for this ſame perſon was before ſeen to watch his motions and the iſſue of his trial, and join'd himſelf in converſation with a New-England capt. whom he obſerv'd to ſpeak favourably of Halley's cauſe, to whom he introduced himſelf by ſaying, he believed *he was innocent*. This little anecdote came from the ſaid captain, and the ſubſtance of it partly from Halſey, who rejected their aſſiſtance, telling them he knew nothing of their religion, that he was bred in the church of England, and would live and die in it.

The day before execution, mr. E———ds viſited him, and being ſway'd by the appearance and ſtrong aſſertions of his innocence, was ſo good as to intereſt himſelf, and take much pains to get him a reſpite. He gave the following account of the riſe and progreſs of the proſecution.

That having been appriſed of the ſhip's arrival, wherein his ſon died, and found her out with ſome difficulty, going on board to enquire about his ſon's death and effects, he met Thomas Sims on the deck, and aſked him ſome queſtions

queſtions relating to his ſon, ſaying, he heard a report that he was ill uſed and beaten, and demanded if it was ſo? the boy, after ſome pauſe, anſwer'd, no; *no more than is common aboard ſhips.* Whatever other queſtions he put to him about his ſon's death, mr. E———ds acknowledges he returned home ſatisfied in his own mind, that his ſon had no foul play; and without any thoughts of a proſecution. He farther ſays, he then gave Tom Sims a ſhilling, and bid him keep his ſon's old ſea clothes as being uſeleſs to him; and he obſerv'd that the cabin-boy, William Mitchel, was then preſent, heard theſe queſtions, and ſaw all that paſs'd, but ſaid nothing.

The next day mr. E———ds ſitting down to dinner was call'd on by a ſtranger, one W———n a lumper; who renew'd this ſubject, ſaying there was much talk and noiſe about the unfair death of his ſon, &c. This not only ſpoil'd his dinner at preſent, but ſet him to examine the matter again, and made him reſtleſs 'till he carried on the proſecution, in which the two boys now mentioned were the principal witneſſes. Halſey being aſk'd if any difference had happen'd between him and this lumper; anſwer'd, that the owners having agreed with him to unload the ſhip at a certain rate, by the caſk or hogſhead, he would however have his men paid odd half days, or by the day, which Halſey not complying with, he ſtir'd up this proſecution againſt him.

As to the teſtimony of Baſaro the Italian ſeaman, it is affirmed by ſome perſons who heard it, that it differ'd much from itſelf before the juſtice, and on the trial. For that he never ſaid before the juſtice that Halſey had ſtruck Davidſon with a mop, but only puſh'd him with a mop; and was very cautious in his evidence, not charging him with the hurting or death of Davidſon. But in court he ſaid much more, that he ſtruck him three or four blows in the breaſt, with the head of the mop; that having his breeches about his legs, he fell down and was ſhoved off the quarter-deck with the mop by Halſey; and that he believed this ſtriking, &c. to be the occaſion of his death.

But in the firſt part of his evidence, he had own'd Halſey behaved well to the men; and in the anſwers to his croſs-examination, he own'd, that Davidſon being ſtript after his death, had no marks of blows on his breaſt.

Of this tranſaction, Halſey gave the following account, on the word of a dying man; that he had Capt. Gallop's orders to make the men come on deck daily and clean themſelves; that this Davidſon being call'd up for that purpoſe, was found very naſty and foul, and yet would ſtand ſtock ſtill before the companion door, where the ſmell of him was very offenſive; and being bid to go forward and clean himſelf, he would not budge; ſo Halſey, unwilling to touch his foulneſs with his hands, took the mop to puſh him away, but neither ſtruck, nor hurt him with the mop. And whereas William Mitchel depoſed, that he had ſtruck Davidſon with a new point, which is a flat rope for reefing the ſail; Halſey explained this to be an old one, ſplit in two, and grown ſoft with wearing, and which would not hurt a child. Another charge againſt him by the ſame witneſs was, that he had beaten the men with a loom of an oar, that is, the broad flat end of an oar, which he had cut up and kept for that purpoſe.--This Halſey affirmed to be thus; he was chopping up an old broken oar for chips to kindle the fire, when one of the men paſſing by, he ſlap'd him in jeſt, with the flat piece he held in his hand, and then put it in the fire.——In this manner may a falſe witneſs pervert harmleſs or unmeaning trifles into the guilt of murder.

But the worſt and moſt dangerous part of Mitchel's evidence was, that Halſey had tied up Davidſon to the ſhrouds, and whip'd him ſeverely the day before his death. Whereas, beſides the improbability of his being able to hold him up in the air and tie him, ſingle handed, Halſey has moſt ſolemnly denied, that ever he tied him up to lick him in his life.

Accuſed perſons, particularly ſtrangers, are often loaded and oppreſſed with falſe reports. Of this an inſtance is ſaid to have happen'd, on the apprehending of Capt. Halſey, when rumours were ſpread, printed, and ſold about, in ſuch Grubſtreet papers, as daily ſacrifice truth for a farthing, that he was taken up in a bad houſe, in bed with two common women: whereas, a friend of his, who was on board with him when taken up, can depoſe, that he was not aſhore, nor had any woman, much leſs any bad woman, with him in the ſhip.

Halſey always inſiſted that had Captain Gallop lived, he had never been accuſed or impriſon'd, becauſe he knew his innocence and cou'd defend him. Being aſk'd about this, he ſaid Gallop was on deck well

well enough three weeks at one time, two weeks at another, and three days at another; and was able to come on deck moſt days during the voyage; (as may appear by the affidavit of Capt. Boardman, now in the hands of Capt. Cahil) and particularly, that he read the burial office over one of the men that died, and himſelf over the other. He added, that Capt. Gallop was in no dangerous way, till ſome time after he arrived at Plymouth, and then being taken with a rupture, he died in the paſſage from thence to London, off Portſmouth. Now the argument drawn from thence is, that had he been guilty, or accuſed of two murders, when Capt. Gallop arrived at Plymouth, he muſt have been there brought to juſtice. But as no hint was given, or ſtep taken to this purpoſe there, it is inferr'd he was then neither thought guilty nor accuſed.

On the whole affair, a perſon of good credit, who knew the proceedings in this proſecution, from the apprehending to the execution, affirms, that Halſey in his defence, was ever conſiſtent with himſelf, and ſaid the ſame thing from firſt to laſt; and from my own ſhort experience and obſervation, he never appeared to vary in his account.

ON

The Morning of EXECUTION,

WEDNESDAY, *March* the 14th.

BEING viſited, he received the Holy Communion with ſeriouſneſs and devotion, his attention indeed was once interrupted by the noiſe of the ſurrounding multitude waiting to ſee him brought out; inſomuch that he ſaid in the time of prayer; *Hear what a mob there is*, which was new and uncommon to him, as almoſt a ſtranger to this great city. To guard him againſt inattention or diſmay on this account, in theſe his laſt moments of preparing for eternity, he was exhorted to ſet before him the lively example of a ſuffering ſaviour, whom he was now commemorating, whoſe ineſtimable pattern of ſufferings is then moſt valuable and neceſſary when moſt wanted in the greateſt diſtreſſes of life, or agonies of death. He promiſed therefore no more to regard theſe inconſiderable objects, but to fix his thoughts on this and the other moſt comfortable articles of his faith, and employ himſelf in prayer, during his paſſage to the place of execution. For this purpoſe proper acts of reſignation to the will of God, &c. were pointed out to him, to be uſed on the way. He was put in a cart between 8 and 9 in the morning, the deputy marſhal and other proper officers of the Admiralty attending: one of whom carried the ſilver oar. After he had been carried part of the way, it appear'd on enquiry, his book was not in his hand, having caſually dropt it in the cart, on which another prayer-book was handed to him from my coach. This he now and then uſed, and then appear'd eaſy and unconcerned, the people paſſing no judgment on him as he was carried along, but gazing at him with a ſilent ſuſpence;

pence; the tender hearted women wringing their hands and ſhedding tears at ſeeing ſo comely and well-looking a young man doom'd to this ſhameful and untimely fate. Being carried through vaſt crouds all the way to that dock in Wapping, which has its name from being the uſual place of execution, at low water mark, he was led on foot from the cart to the ſcaffold built under the *tree of death*, for the convenience of ſtanding to pray, and ſpeak what he thought proper to ſay.

Now was the time and place if ever to expect the ſtricteſt truth from him. He was therefore aſked if he had any thing to add to what he had ſaid before? He ſaid no, he had already told the whole truth relating to the fact he was to die for, and was as innocent of it as a babe. That he gave no correction or abuſe to the men whoſe deaths he ſtood charged with, except what was moderate, with a ſmall rope's end; or a box on the ear; that when he did correct them, it was by the deceaſed Capt. Gallop's order, who would have him correct them more, to oblige them to pump, but he refuſed it; and then the captain, in order to ſhame them to their duty, ordered his cabbin boy, *William Mitchel*, to whip them, which he did He declared his belief and opinion, that they died of diſtempers, (meaning ſcurvy or dropſy, or both) their bodies being ſwell'd, and their legs broken out and burſt.

He deſired to warn all his brother officers on board, not to uſe any ſeverity to ſeamen, in order to force them to pump or work the ſhip, if unwilling, leſt they ſhould fall into the like ſnare with him, and eſpecially he warned ſeamen to be obedient to their officers, and orderly in all their behaviour; and he deſired earneſtly to exhort all his brother ſailors of every rank and degree, to avoid the too prevailing deadly ſins of their profeſſion; particularly common ſwearing, drunkenneſs, and lewdneſs; the firſt of theſe he acknowledged he had been guilty of, but profeſſed he had always lived a ſober life.

He join'd in prayer devoutly and attentively, for about half an hour, during which he repeated the articles of our Belief, and the Lord's prayer; profeſs'd his entire and humble reſignation to the will of God, his hearty repentance for all his paſt ſins, and to be in charity with all men; praying repeatedly that it may pleaſe God to forgive his enemies, perſecutors, and ſlanderers, and to turn their hearts; particularly beſeeching God to give true repentance to thoſe who had borne falſe witneſs againſt him. This was the greater victory gain'd over his own heart, as he ſeem'd to have a tendency the contrary way, in a requeſt made to me this morning, deſiring that I would read to him the 35th pſalm, both in the chapel, and at the place of execution. Which I hear inſert.

1 *PLead thou my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: and fight thou against them that fight against me.*

2 *Lay hand upon the shield and buckler: and stand up to help me.*

3 *Bring forth the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.*

4 *Let them be confounded, and put to shame, that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion, that imagine mischief for me.*

5 *Let them be as the dust before the wind: and the angel of the Lord scattering them.*

6 *Let their way be dark and slippery; and let the angel of the Lord persecute them.*

7 *For they have privily laid their net to destroy me without a cause: yea, even without a cause have they made a pit for my soul.*

8 *Let a sudden destruction come upon him unawares, and his net that he hath laid privily catch himself: that he may fall into his own mischief.*

9 *And, my soul, be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation.*

10 *All my bones shall say, Lord, who is like unto thee, who deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him: yea, the poor, and him that is in misery, from him that spoileth him?*

11 *False witnesses did rise up: they laid to my charge things that I knew not.*

I read the above psalm to him immediately after his reception of the holy sacrament, and he shed tears plentifully during the reading of it; but instead of reading the same psalm to him at the place of execution, he was reminded that he should put on a more evangelic temper, by forgiving and praying for his enemies, which he readily complied with as before described.

During our prayers, (in which he appeared to me rather dejected and overcome with sorrow, than dismay'd with fear) an unlucky accident, which sounded like the bursting of great guns very near us, once more interrupted our attention; it was the breaking down and fall of a long scaffolding, at the water's edge, which proved too weak for the numbers crowded upon it. This turned our eyes, as well as our prayers toward the safety and deliverance of those who fell; and, as the people reported, were either drowning or broken boned; but hearing of no remarkable hurt or damage done by the fall, we returned to our duty. After which, taking an hearty farewel, on leaving him, the scaffold was removed from under his feet, and he was consigned to eternity; having been first most humbly and earnestly committed to God's gracious mercy and protection. It should have been mentioned before this, that after his devotion he again repeated with his last breath to the people, that he had never struck a man with a handspike in all his life, as was sworn against him; that he never used that expression, *the man sham'd Abraham*; that he never hindered a man from going down to shift himself, &c.

This is all the Account given by me,

STEPHEN ROE,

Ordinary of *Newgate*.

Ex. Gm3.